

wage, by passing a bipartisan health insurance reform, and now enacting tax relief for both low-income and middle-income families.

# REPUBLICAN MAJORITY DOING THE PEOPLE'S WILL, ESPECIALLY THE SENIORS

(Mr. FOX of Pennsylvania asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. FOX of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, I want to take a moment just to review some of the progress that has been made by the Republican majority in this Congress to do what is the people's will and especially with regard to our senior citizens, Mr. Speaker.

In this House, the Representatives have passed legislation to roll back the 1993 tax on Social Security. We have also had legislation that we passed here in the House to raise the income eligibility levels from \$11,280 a year to \$30,000 over the next 5 years without deductions from Social Security, and it is the same Republican majority trying to save Medicare, and we will accomplish that by making sure we remove the fraud, waste, and abuse.

Thirty billion dollars a year is what the figure is on fraud, waste, and abuse. By passing legislation which will, in fact, make it a crime to double bill or overbill the Government for that \$30 billion in fraud, waste, and abuse, we will have the funds ready and available for this generation of seniors and the next generation of seniors so that health care for seniors will be preserved.

## REPUBLICANS SAVING MEDICARE?

(Mr. WISE asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. WISE. Mr. Speaker, let us jump into this Medicare debate because I am fascinated to hear about my colleagues on the other side of the aisle saying how they are saving Medicare. I say, "Oh, don't toss me that life preserver if you're going to be the lifeguard, because let's talk about what they do."

They say they are raising the amount over 7 years from \$5,000 to \$7,000 per beneficiary. What they do not tell us is that roughly it would be \$8,400 under the present program, which means beneficiaries will be paying several hundred dollars more out of pocket. My colleagues may not call that a cut. I think they are going to call that a cut.

They relax some of the restrictions on balanced billing. That means that doctors can overcharge, charge more than what Medicare will permit them to charge. They will be relaxed in certain instances. I do not think that is a big help. This is the same group that, if my colleagues remember, earlier wanted to relax Federal nursing home standards. We cannot have the Federal Government involved in that, protecting seniors, can we?

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So these are all issues. Incidentally, do we want this Medicare reform to really save Medicare? If that were the case, we need far less in Medicare reductions than what they are proposing. No; it is to pay for a tax cut for the wealthiest individuals in this country. That is not saving Medicare.

## NO MORE MEDICARE UNDER THE REPUBLICANS

(Mr. VOLKMER asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. VOLKMER. Mr. Speaker, as we have heard here and as reports have been made, the Republicans are trying to rewrite history as far as what Speaker GINGRICH said with regard to Medicare. There is no question, it is in the RECORD, what he did say:

We do not get rid of it in round one because we don't think that that is politically smart. We don't think that is the right way to go through a transition period. But we believe it is going to wither on the vine, because we think people are voluntarily going to leave it.

That is what the Speaker said. Now what does it mean? That means he is getting rid of Medicare. That is the way they voted. If we look at all the bills they have passed through here in regard to Medicare, in 7 years, folks, there is not going to be any more Medicare.

Senior citizens out there are waking up to it. They realize it. The Republicans are trying to rewrite what the Speaker said. They are trying to say that that applies to HCFA. Mr. Speaker, that does not apply to HCFA. There is not anybody leaving HCFA. There are not any members of HCFA.

## WHEN IT COMES TO MEDICARE, THE DEMOCRATS ARE SCARED TO DEATH TO GIVE CITIZENS THE RIGHT TO CHOOSE

(Mr. THOMAS asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. THOMAS. Mr. Speaker, the gentleman from Missouri failed to inform the American people about one specific word. In the Speaker's quote he says, "We don't plan on getting rid of it." The question is, What is it? The gentleman from Missouri tells us unequivocally it is the Medicare system. He knows he is wrong.

Brooks Jackson on CNN exposed what the Democrats are doing. If we read the whole quote, what the Speaker was saying was that when seniors have an option, when Medicare is changed to allow seniors to choose the system they want, the old-fashioned, socialist, 1960's top-heavy bureaucratic system, will not be the one that seniors choose. It will, in fact, wither away. The only way to make sure that this comes about is for seniors to have

choice. We had choice in the bill that passed the House and the Senate and that the President vetoed.

The Democrats are scared to death to give the seniors the right to choose. If they can choose, they would not choose a bureaucratic system. That is what the Speaker meant.

## SOME ARE STILL PAYING FOR THE 1993 TAX INCREASE

(Mr. BALLENGER asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. BALLENGER. Mr. Speaker, I do not know how many other people are in the same situation I am, but when taxes went up in 1993, and of course nobody talks about the tax increase, but a lot of us are with the people that gave you the choice: You can pay up immediately or you can spread it out over 3 years.

I just got a notice from the Internal Revenue Service that my third payment on the increase in taxes that were passed in 1993 was due. How many people in this country today are now paying, finally, the ultimate increase in taxes that was passed in 1993?

If the American people were to stop and think about the notice that they got in the mail saying "Pay up, 1993 is now due," I think we would have a whole bunch of people recognize that that increase in taxes in 1993 ran over a long period of time and some of us are still paying.

## PERMISSION FOR SUNDRY COMMITTEES AND THEIR SUBCOMMITTEES TO SIT TODAY DURING 5-MINUTE RULE

Mrs. MORELLA. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that the following committees and their subcommittees be permitted to sit today while the House is meeting in the Committee of the Whole House under the 5-minute rule: the Committee on Banking and Financial Services; the Committee on Government Reform and Oversight; the Committee on International Relations; the Committee on the Judiciary; the Committee on National Security; the Committee on Resources; the Committee on Science; and the Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. HAYWORTH). Is there objection to the request of the gentlewoman from Maryland?

There was no objection.

## CORRECTIONS CALENDAR

The SPEAKER pro tempore. This is the day for the call of the Corrections Calendar.

The Clerk will call the bill on the Corrections Calendar.